

our efforts to stop them. Genocide is occurring today in the scorched towns of Darfur, in western Sudan. The genocide in Darfur is not new, the crimes of the Sudanese government and its militia allies are well known to all of us here. As with the Armenian Genocide, there is no factual debate about what is happening in Darfur. It is genocide. It is a crime against humanity. And it must stop immediately.

While much of this debate has been repeated year after year, this year we find ourselves in a particularly hopeful moment in regards to this decades-old conflict about what happened to the Armenians in the early 20th century. Just yesterday, the governments of Armenia and Turkey announced that, after a year of intensive talks mediated by the government of Switzerland and encouraged by the Obama administration, they have "agreed on a comprehensive framework for the normalization of their bilateral relations." This joint statement is an extremely important step for Armenia and Turkey, and I commend both countries and their political leadership for the courage they are showing today. The people of Armenia and Turkey have lived far too long with their bilateral relations in a state of suspended animation. It is time for these two proud countries to stand together, in acknowledgement of the difficulties of the past, with confidence that old wounds can be healed, and with a profound commitment to a better future.

Madam Speaker, I call upon this House once again to pass H. Res. 252, the Affirmation of the United States Record on the Armenian Genocide Resolution. I thank all of my colleagues for commemorating the 94th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide and joining together to reaffirm our commitment to end the crime of genocide wherever it is found. And on this spring day, at a time of rebirth and renewal, I commend Armenia and Turkey on the steps they are taking to fully normalize their bilateral relations, and I urge them to complete this process as soon as possible.

HONORING DEREK TYLER COX

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Derek Tyler Cox, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 145, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Derek has been very active with his troop participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Derek has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Derek Tyler Cox for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

## RECOGNIZING THE "DURBAN II COUNTER-CONFERENCE"

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the American Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists (AAJLJ), which organized the "Durban II Counter-Conference" in New York City April 20–24, 2009, to provide an honest and critical examination of issues of racism, racial discrimination, genocide, xenophobia, gender discrimination and religious discrimination, in marked contrast to the hate-filled proceedings that occurred the same week in Geneva.

The Counter Conference commenced with remarks by my distinguished colleague from New York, Representative CAROLYN MALONEY, and included presentations by our parliamentary colleagues from Canada—Senator Jeremiah Grafstein and former minister Irwin Cotler—and Israel's Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Daniel Carmon, along with prominent experts and human rights advocates from the academic and legal communities. The panels included topics that should be part of any serious discussion on racism, such as "A Look at Religious Intolerance and Discrimination," "Current Issues in Gender Discrimination," and "Genocide in Darfur, Rwanda and the Congo." Too many of these topics are ignored in the UN and I am pleased that the Durban II Counter Conference focused on them.

I want to particularly recognize the lead organizers of the event—AAJLJ president Stephen Greenwald, conference chair Robert Weinberg and conference vice chair Marc Landis, along with Ambassador Richard Schifter, former United States Representative to the United Nations Human Rights Commission. Ambassador Schifter delivered the keynote address at the conference, entitled "The Third Totalitarian Threat," which I would like to insert into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

THE U.N.'S CHALLENGE TO DEMOCRACY—ADDRESS BY RICHARD SCHIFTER, FORMER U.S. REPRESENTATIVE IN THE U.N. COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND FORMER U.S. DEPUTY REPRESENTATIVE IN THE U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL TO THE DURBAN II "COUNTER-CONFERENCE" AT FORDHAM LAW SCHOOL IN NEW YORK CITY ON APRIL 20, 2009

If Adolf Hitler had lived to 120, today would be the day he died. While he has, fortunately, not been bodily with us for the past 64 years, his spirit, regrettably, is still alive and very much alive in Geneva this week. As we have focused on Durban II, we have appropriately remembered Durban I, where anti-Israeli propaganda initially intertwined with antisemitism. Whatever product the wordsmiths may come up with, the dominant forces in Geneva will have seen to it that the anti-Israel message of Durban I is reaffirmed.

There is no doubt that Durban I and Durban II are matters of serious concern. Yet, as we examine the context in which these UN-sponsored conferences are held, we must necessarily come to the conclusion that the anti-Israel and antisemitic phenomenon of these meetings is only the tip of the UN iceberg. Or, to use another metaphor, we deal at this Durban II meeting, as we did at Durban I, with only a symptom of the debilitating disease from which the UN suffers.

The perfectly legitimate and highly worthy cause of opposition to racism, which is the alleged reason for these gatherings, was from the very start subverted by the totalitarians that dominate the UN General Assembly and who are making full use of the Assembly and its offshoots in their continuing campaign against democracy, civil liberties, and the rule of law. They are engaged in a campaign against the basic principles of the Enlightenment, principles that were enshrined in the UN Charter.

What we are witnessing now worldwide is the third major totalitarian attack on these principles. In its modern form the ideology of democracy and human rights emanated from the Netherlands in the 17th Century and then spread to the United States, England, France, Germany in the 18th and 19th Centuries, and beyond that region in the 20th Century. It is no longer a way of governing limited to the West. India, it is worth keeping in mind, has for many years been the world's largest democracy. Japan and South Korea are democracies and so are many smaller non-Western countries.

It is indeed appropriate that we are meeting on the day that marks not only the opening of Durban II, but also the day once known in Germany as the Geburtstag des Fuehrers, the birthday of the leader. For it was Hitler who led the initial totalitarian attack on the Enlightenment, turning first on the democratic process in his own country and then seeking to bring all of Europe under his control.

In the course of the 20th Century we experienced not only Hitler's attack on the Enlightenment, which led to World War II, but also Stalin's repressive and expansionist policies, which precipitated the Cold War. Both World War II and the Cold War were conflicts resulting from profound differences in ideology. And now, in the 21st Century, we, whose way of life is based on the principles of the Enlightenment, are the objects of the third totalitarian attack, an attack undertaken, strange as it may seem, by an informal de facto alliance of neo-fascists and neo-communists, an alliance that unites Mahmoud Akhmadinejad with Hugo Chavez.

The proceedings in Geneva at the Durban II meeting are vivid proof to the world of what that new alliance seeks to accomplish. Under the mantle of opposition to racism, it seeks to attack the Western world and our basic concepts of freedom. Its manipulation of significant human rights issues is well illustrated by its approach to the issue of slavery. It is only the wrongful transatlantic slave trade that is attacked. The slave trade in East Africa, undertaken by non-Westerners, including Arabs, is deliberately omitted. Nor is there any mention in the Durban II drafts of the racist aspect of the current conflict in Darfur, which Colin Powell has correctly characterized as genocidal.

While there is a need for us to follow the Durban II proceedings closely for what they reveal regarding the agenda of the new totalitarians, we need also to recognize that Durban II is just one forum of a much larger enterprise, an enterprise that makes full use of the United Nations system to advance its cause, the cause of the new totalitarianism. Israel, I submit, is the canary in the coal mine. The new totalitarians view as their enemies all those who are committed to the way of life that emanated from the Enlightenment.

I have been around long enough to remember the speech given by Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia in 1936 at a session of the League of Nations Assembly to appeal for action against Mussolini's Italy, which had invaded his country. In his speech he warned: "It is collective security: it is the very existence of the League of Nations. It is